

ONESOME



FOLK SONGS FROM THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS

THE WORDS COLLECTED AND EDITED BY

LORAINE WYMAN

THE PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT BY

HOWARD BROCKWAY



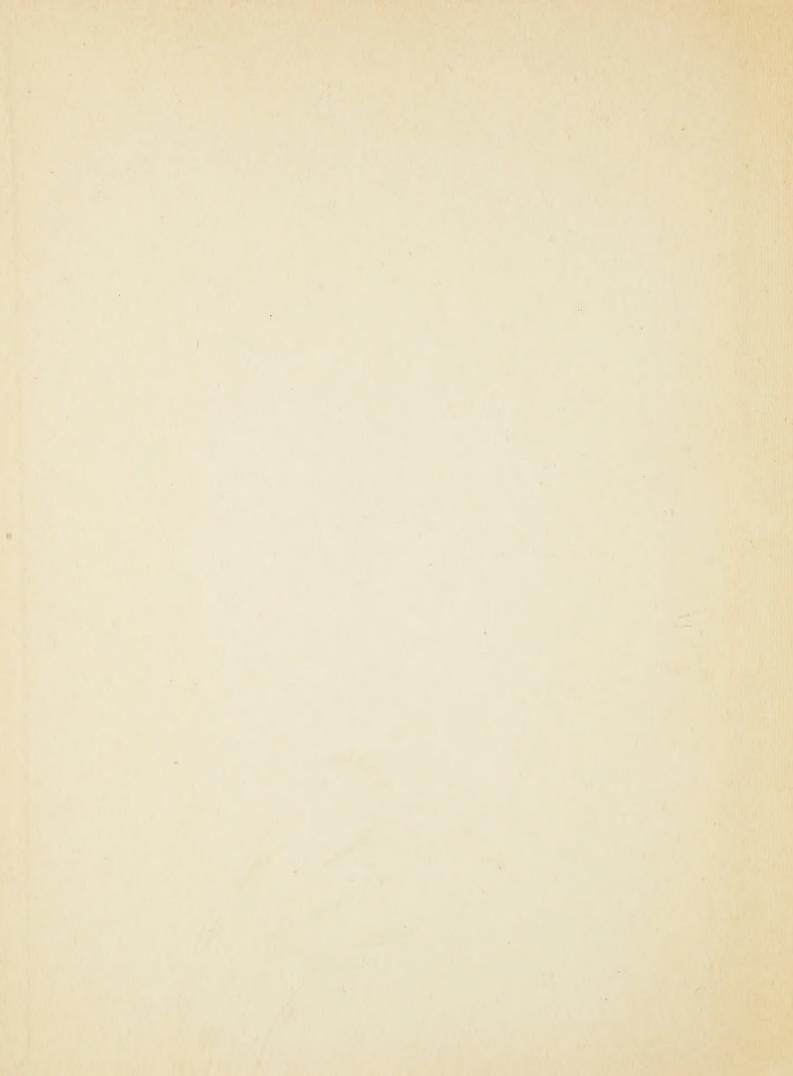
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Price \$2.00



THE H. W. GRAY COMPANY

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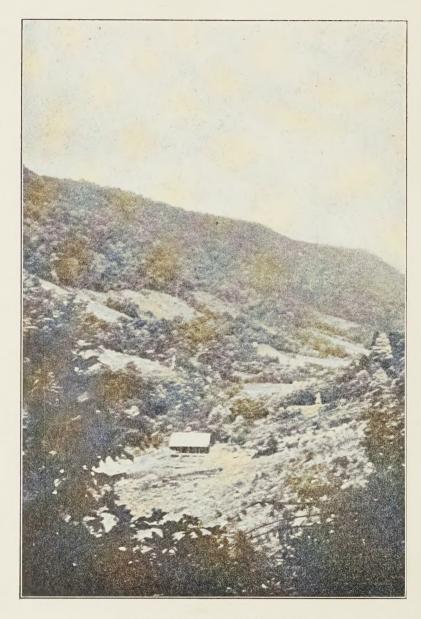
To the Friends

WHO MADE THE GATHERING OF THESE SONGS POSSIBLE THIS BOOK IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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THE HOME OF THE LONESOME TUNES

In publishing this collection of Folk Songs we wish it to be primarily an impression of Kentucky music—that is to say, songs reproduced as nearly as possible as we heard them sung by the people, regardless of their extraneous origin or defects. To correct these melodies and to perfect the poetic versions would give them a totally different character. Our main effort has been to give this volume the simplicity and the naivete which is the great quality of these mountain songs.

L. W.

It is our duty and our great pleasure to acknowledge our obligation to those from whom these songs have been gleaned. No one who has not made the attempt can appreciate the difficulty of committing to paper words and music coming from the lips of another. It gives to the term "oral tradition" a new meaning.

If the difficulty of him who writes is great, how much greater is the tax upon the patience and kindness of those who sing!

We were the happy recipients of enduring patience and unfailing kindness from the following, whom we hope we may venture to call our friends.

Mrs. Sallie Adams, Miss Mary Ann Bagley, Mrs. Abner Boggs, Mr. Art. Boggs, Miss Fidella Day Mrs. Jaspar Day, Mr. Fitzhugh Draughn, Mr Leonard Meece, Mrs. Powell, Miss Talitha Powell, Mrs. Betty Jane Smith, Mr. Hillard Smith, Mr. Bristol Taylor, Miss Anna May VVagers, Miss Lauda Whitt, and the children of the Pine Mountain and Hindman Settlement Schools.

OCTOBER, 1916.

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Barbara Allen

(Knott County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

Melody collected and Pianoforte accompaniment by HOWARD BROCKWAY

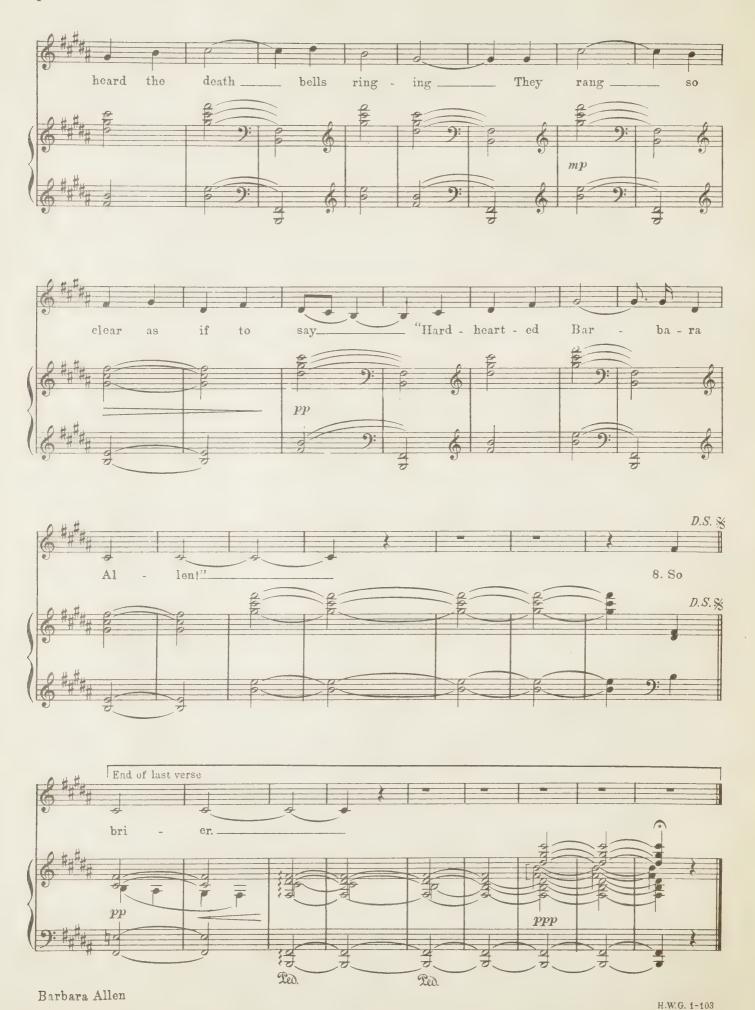












Barbara Allen

Ι

All in the merry month of May When the green buds they were swelling, William Green on his death-bed lay For the love of Barbara Allen.

П

He sent his servant to the town To the place where she was dwelling Saying "Love, there is a call for you If your name is Barbara Allen."

TIT

She was very slowly getting up And very slowly going, The only words she said to him Were "Young man I think you're dying."

IV

"Don't you remember the other day
When you were in town a-drinking,
You drank a health to the ladies all around
And slighted Barbara Allen?"

V

"O yes, I remember the other day When I was in town a-drinking, I drank a health to the ladies all around, But my love to Barbara Allen."

VI

He turned his pale face to the wall And death was in him dwelling; "Adieu, adieu, to my friends all, Be kind to Barbara Allen."

VII

When she got in two miles of town She heard the death bells ringing: They rang so clear, as if to say "Hard-hearted Barbara Allen!"

VIII

So she looked east and she looked west And saw the cold corpse coming, She says "Come round you nice young man And let me look upon you."

IX

The more she looked the more she grieved Until she burst out crying "Perhaps I could have saved that young man's life Who now is here a-lying."

X

"O Mother, O Mother, come make my bed O make it both soft and narrow, For sweet William died to-day And I will die to-morrow."

XI

"O Father, O Father, come dig my grave
O dig it deep and narrow,
For sweet William died in love
And I will die in sorrow."

XII

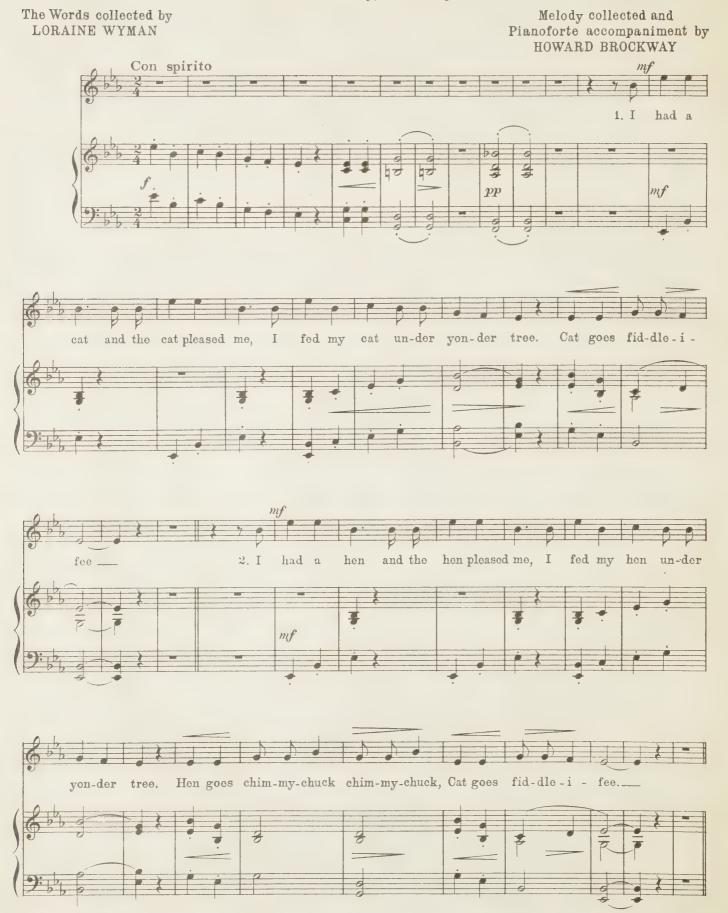
Sweet William was buried in the old church tomb, Barbara Allen was buried in the yard; Out of William's heart grew a red rose, Out of Barbara Allen's grew a brier.

XIII

They grew and grew to the old church tower And they could not grow any higher; And at the end tied a true lover's knot And the rose wrapped around the brier.

The Barnyard Song

(Knott County, Kentucky)



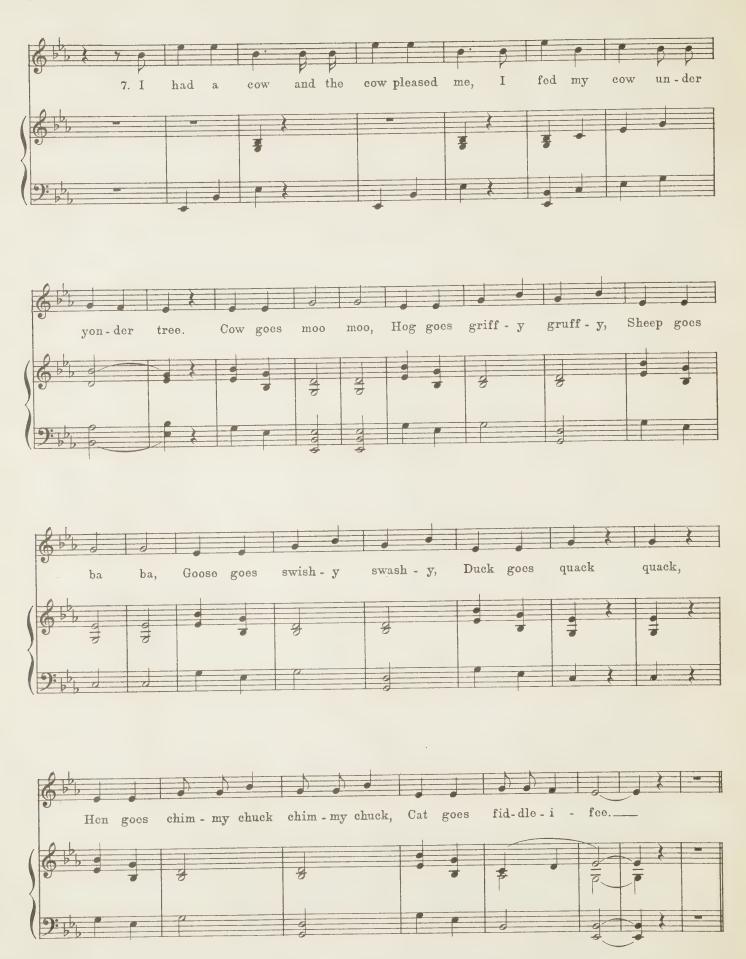




The Barnyard Song



The Barnyard Song





The Barnyard Song



The Barnyard Song

Ι

I had a cat and the cat pleased me, I fed my cat under yonder tree. Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

П

I had a hen and the hen pleased me, I fed my hen under yonder tree. Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck, Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

Ш

I had a duck and the duck pleased me, I fed my duck under yonder tree. Duck goes quack-quack, Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck, Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

IV

I had a goose and the goose pleased me, I fed my goose under yonder tree. Goose goes swishy-swashy, Duck goes quack-quack, Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck, Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

V

I had a sheep and the sheep pleased me, I fed my sheep under yonder tree. Sheep goes ba-ba, Goose goes swishy-swashy, Duck goes quack-quack, Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck, Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

I had a hog and the hog pleased me,
I fed my hog under yonder tree.
Hog goes griffy-gruffy,
Sheep goes ba-ba,
Goose goes swishy-swashy,
Duck goes quack-quack,
Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck,
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

VII

I had a cow and the cow pleased me,
I fed my cow under yonder tree.
Cow goes moo-moo,
Hog goes griffy-gruffy,
Sheep goes ba-ba,
Goose goes swishy-swashy,
Duck goes quack-quack,
Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck,
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

VIII

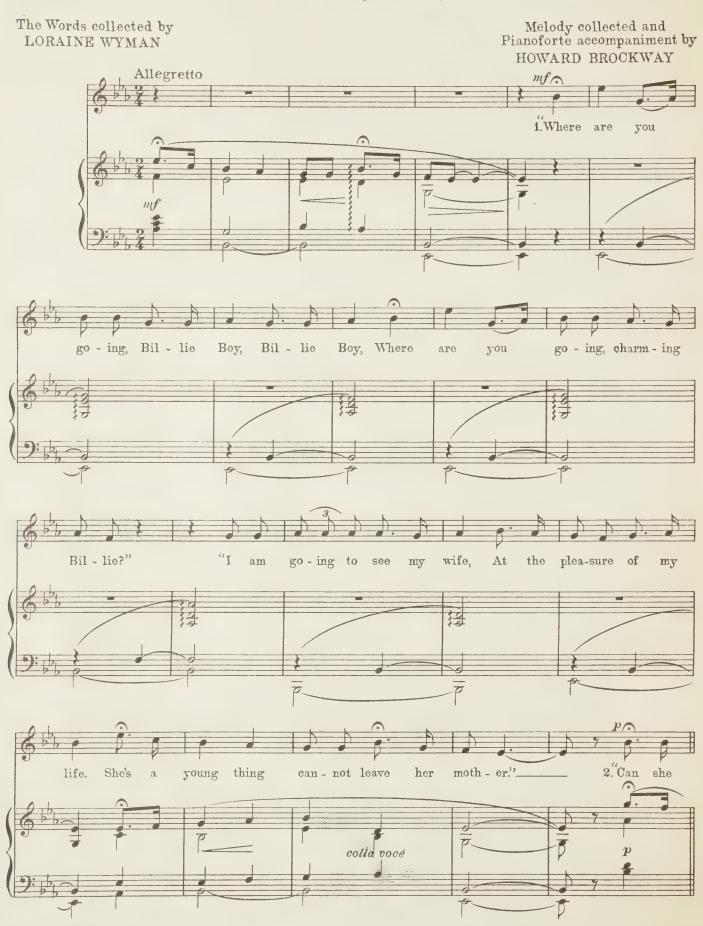
I had a horse and the horse pleased me, I fed my horse under yonder tree. Horse goes neigh-neigh, Cow goes moo-moo, Hog goes griffy-gruffy, Sheep goes ba-ba, Goose goes swishy-swashy, Duck goes quack-quack, Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck, Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

IX

I had a dog and the dog pleased me,
I fed my dog under yonder tree.
Dog goes bow-wow,
Horse goes neigh-neigh,
Cow goes moo-moo,
Hog goes griffy-gruffy,
Sheep goes ba-ba,
Goose goes swishy-swashy,
Duck goes quack-quack,
Hen goes chimmy-chuck chimmy-chuck,
Cat goes fiddle-i-fee.

Billie Boy

(Jackson County, Kentucky)







Billie Boy

I

"Where are you going, Billie Boy, Billie Boy Where are you going charming Billie?"
"I am going to see my wife At the pleasure of my life, She's a young thing cannot leave her mother."

II

"Can she bake a cherry pie Billie Boy, Billie Boy Can she bake a cherry pie charming Billie?" "She can bake a cherry pie As quick as a cat can wink her eye, She's a young thing cannot leave her mother?"

III

"Can she sweep up a house Billie Boy, Billie Boy Can she sweep up a house charming Billie?" "She can sweep up a house As quick as a cat can catch a mouse, She's a young thing cannot leave her mother."

IV

"Can she bake a pone of bread Billie Boy, Billie Boy Can she bake a pone of bread charming Billie?"
"She can bake a pone of bread Between the oven and the lid, She's a young thing cannot leave her mother."

V

"Can she make up a bed Billie Boy, Billie Boy
Can she make up a bed charming Billie?"
"She can make up a bed
Seven feet above her head,
She's a young thing cannot leave her mother."

VI

"How tall is she Billie Boy, Billie Boy
How tall is she charming Billie?"
"She's as tall as any pine
And as straight as pumpkin vine,
She's a young thing cannot leave her mother."

VII

"How old is she Billie Boy, Billie Boy
How old is she charming Billie?"

"Twice six, twice seven
Twice twenty and eleven,
She's a young thing cannot leave her mother?"

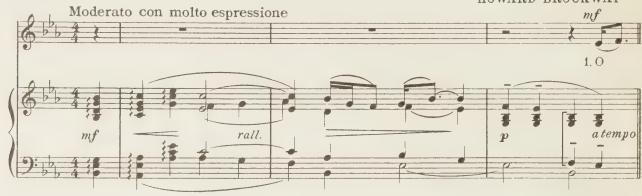
Brother Green

or The Dying Soldier

(Harlan County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

Melody collected and Pianoforte accompaniment by HOWARD BROCKWAY













Brother Green

or

The Dying Soldier

Ι

O Brother Green, O come to me, For I am shot and bleeding, Now I must die no more to see My wife and my dear children.

 Π

The southern foe has laid me low On this cold ground to suffer, Stay, brother stay and lay me away, And write my wife a letter.

TTI

Tell her that I am prepared to die And want to meet her in heaven, Since I believed in Jesus Christ, My sins are all forgiven.

IV

My little children, I love them well, I could once more see them, That I might bid them a long farewell Want we meet in heaven.

V

Dear Mary, you must train them well And train them up for heaven; Teach them to love and serve the Lord And then they will be respected.

VI

Dear father, you have suffered long And prayed for my salvation; Now I must die and leave you all So fare you well temptation.

VII

Dear sister, now, you must not grieve For the loss of your dear brother; For I am going to learn to live To see my blessed mother.

VIII

Two brothers yet I will not forget, A-fighting in this Union; With my dear wife I have given of my life, So put down this rebellion.

IX

Your ears are deaf, your eyes are dim, But Oh! that wonderful story; We will meet again in that bright world, Where all is peace and pleasure.

X

O Brother I am dying now,
O I do die so easy,
Surely Death has lost its sting
Because I love my Jesus.

XI

Go tell my wife she must not grieve, Go kiss my dear little children; For they will call for me in vain When I am gone to heaven.

The Bed-time Song

(Jackson County, Kentucky)





The Bed-time Song

The Bed-time Song

I

Saw a crow a-flying low
Kitty alone, Kitty alone
Saw a crow a-flying low
Kitty alone a-lie;
Saw a crow a-flying low
And a cat a-spinning tow
Kitty alone a-lie
Rock-a-mary-a-ree.

II

In came the little bee With some honey on his knee.

III

In came the little flea With a fiddle on his knee.

IV

In came the little rat
With some butter and some fat.

Frog Went A-Courting

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

(Estill County, Kentucky)



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Frog went a-courting





Frog Went A-Courting

Ī

Frog went a courting and he did ride Rinktum body minchy cambo Sword and buckler by his side Rinktum body minchy cambo.

REFRAIN

Kimaneero down to Cairo Kimaneero Cairo Straddle addle ladda bobbo Ladda bobbolinktum Rinktum body minchy cambo

TT

He rode down by the mill side door To hear his saddle squeak and roar

TTI

He rode down to Lady Mouse's house The old mouse was not at home

II

The old mouse came home at last Shook her big fat sides and laughed

V

He took Miss Mousie on his knee Pray Miss Mousiewill you marry me?

VI

Who will make the wedding gown? Old Miss Rat from pumpkin town

VII

Where will the wedding breakfast be? Way down yonder in a hollow tree

VIII

What will the wedding supper be?
A fried mosquito and a roasted flea

IX

First came in was a bumble bee A fiddle buckled on his knee

X

Next came in were two little ants Fixing around to have a dance

XI

Next came in was a little flea
To dance a jig for the bumble bee

XII

Next came in was a big black snake Passing around the wedding cake

XIII

Next came in was a big black bug On his back was a whiskey jug

XIX

Next came in was a big Tom cat Swallowed up mouse and growled at the rat

XV

Frog jumped up and winked his eye Wished to hell the cat would die!

The Ground Hog

(Knott County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by

Melody collected and Pianoforte accompaniment by

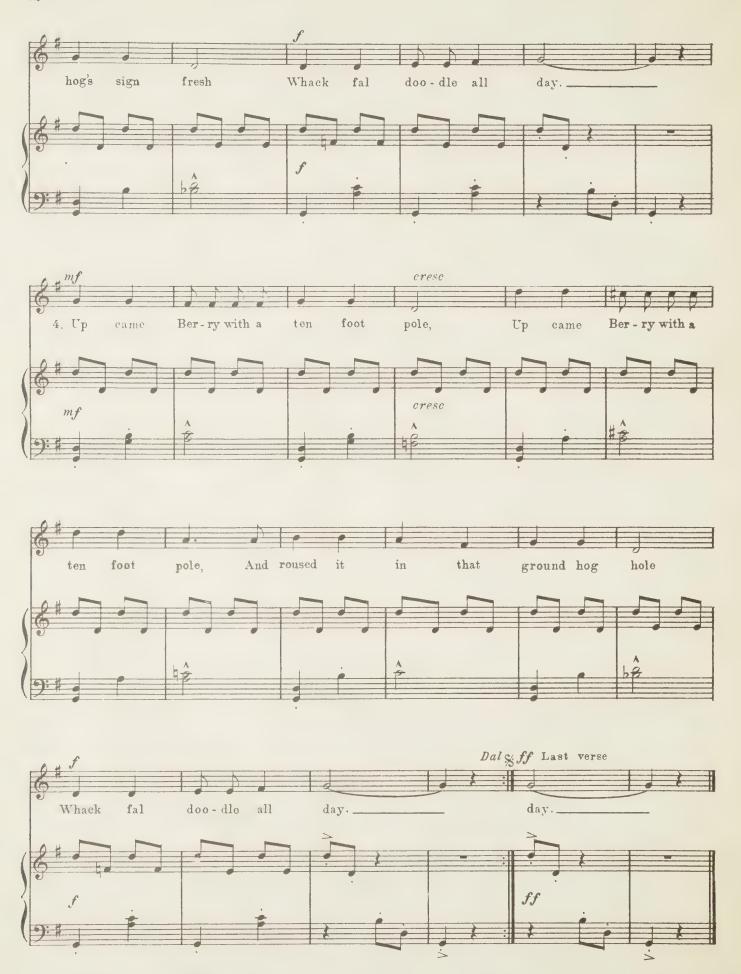


* (As interlude, play only four measures)

The Ground Hog

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The Ground Hog

Ι

Whet up your knife and whistle up your dog, (bis) We're going to the hills to hunt a ground hog. Whack fal doodle all day.

H

Too many rocks, and too many logs, (bis)
Too many rocks to hunt ground hogs.

 Π

Over the hills and through the brush, (bis) There we struck that hog's sign fresh.

IV

Up came Berry with a ten-foot pole, (bis) And roused it in that ground hog hole.

77

Up came Kate and stood right there, (bis)
'Til Berry twisted out some ground hog hair.

VI

Kate and Berry kept prizing about, (bis) At last they got that ground hog out.

VII

Took him by the tail and wagged him to a log, (bis) And swore, by grab, it's a pretty fine hog.

VIII

Work boys work as hard as you can tear, (bis) The meat'll do to eat and the hide'll do to wear.

IX

Work boys work for all you'll earn, (bis) Skin him after night and tan him in a churn.

X

They put him in a pot and the children began to smile, (bis) They ate that ground hog before it struck a boil.

XI

Up stepped Susie with a snigger and a grin, (bis) Ground hog grease all over her chin.

John Riley

(Mc Goffin County, Kentucky)



John Riley





John Riley

Ι

On walking out one summer's morning,
To take the cool and pleasant air,
I spied a fair and most beautiful damsel
Her cheeks were like some lily fair.

II

Then I went up to her saying
"Would you like to be a sailor's wife?"
"Oh no, Oh no," She quickly answered,
"My mind is to live a single life."

III

I said Fair maid what makes you differ From all the rest of woman kind You are too fair, you are too handsome To marry you I would incline."

IV

"Kind sir, kind sir, I could have married Some two or three long years ago, All to a man whom they called John Riley Who was the cause of my overthrow."

V

"O leave off thinking of John Riley, Come go with me to some distant shore, We'll sail over to old Pennsylvania Where John Riley lives for evermore."

VI

"I'll not leave off thinking of John Riley,
Nor go with you to some distant shore;
My mind is with him, I cannot forsake him
Tho' his face I may never see any more."

VII

Then I walked up to her sweet kisses,
The kisses I gave her were one, two and three,
"I'm the man whom they call John Riley,
I've just returned to marry thee."

Jackaro

(Knott County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

















Jackaro

Ι

There was a silk merchant, In London he did dwell; He had one only daughter, The truth to you I'll tell, O the truth to you I'll tell.

II

Her sweethearts they were plentiful, She courted both day and night, Till all on Jackie Frazier She placed her heart's delight, O she placed her heart's delight.

III

"I will lock you in my dungeon, Your body I'll keep confined, If there's none but Jackie Frazier That will ever suit your mind," O that will ever suit your mind.

IV

"You can lock me in your dungeon, It's hard to be confined:
But there is none but Jackie Frazier
That will ever suit my mind,"
O that will ever suit my mind.

V

When her parents saw him coming, They flew in an angry way; She gave him forty shillings, To bear him far away, O to bear him far away.

VI

He sailed all over the ocean, All over the deep blue sea Till safely he was landed In the wars of Germany, O in the wars of Germany.

VII

She went down to the tailor's shop, And dressed all in men's gray; And labored for the captain To bear her far away, O to bear her far away. VIII

"Your waist is long and slender, Your feet they are too small, Your cheeks too red and rosy, To face the cannon ball,"
O to face the cannon ball."

IX

"It's true my waist is slender,
My fingers long and small;
It would not change my countenance
To see ten thousand fall,"
O to see ten thousand fall,

X

"Kind sir, your name I'd like to know Before on board you go;" She smiled all in her countenance, They call me Jackaro, O they call me Jackaro.

ΧI

She sailed all over the ocean, All over the deep blue sea; Till safely she was landed In the wars of Germany, O in the wars of Germany.

XII

She went out to the battle field, And viewed it up and down; Among the dead and wounded Her darling boy she found, O her darling boy she found.

ХШ

She picked him up all in her arms
And carried him to the town,
And called in a physician
To cure up all his wounds,
O to cure up all his wounds.

XIV

And now they're happily married In Germany they dwell This story to their children So often they do tell, O so often they do tell.

2nd Version of ending
This couple now are married,
How well they do agree;
This couple now are married,
So why not you and me?
O so why not you and me?

The Hangman's Song





The Hangman's Song





The Hangman's Song

The Hangman's Song

Ι

"Hangman, hangman, slack up your rope
O slack it for a while,
I looked over yonder and I see Paw coming
He's walked for many a long mile."

"Say Paw, say Paw, have you brought me any gold, Any gold for to pay my fine?"
"No sir, no sir, I've brought you no gold, No gold for to pay your fine, But I'm just come for to see you hanged, Hanged on the gallows line."
"O you won't love and it's hard to be beloved And its hard to make up your time, (crime?) You have broke the heart of many a true love, True love, but you won't break mine."

TT

"Hangman, hangman, slack up your rope
O slack it for a while,
I looked over yonder and I see Maw coming
She's walked for many a long mile."

"Say Maw, say Maw, have you brought me any gold,
Any gold for to pay my fine?"
"No sir, no sir, I've brought you no gold,
No gold for to pay your fine,
But I'm just come for to see you hanged,
Hanged on the gallows line."
"O you won't love and it's hard to be beloved
And its hard to make up your time,
You have broke the heart of many a true love,
True love, but you won't break mine."

* * * *

III

"Hangman, hangman, slack up your rope
O slack it for a while,
I looked over yonder and I see my sweetheart coming
She's walked for many a long mile."

"Sweetheart, sweetheart, have you brought me any gold,
Any gold for to pay my fine?"
"Yes sir, yes sir, I've brought you some gold,
Some gold for to pay your fine,
For I'm just come for to take you home
From on the gallows line."

- * The above is repeated with the successive substitution of "brother" and "sister" - the third verse here given being the last verse.
- + The word brought was always pronounced brung!

The Lady and the Glove

(Letcher County, Kentucky)





The Lady and the Glove

The Lady and the Glove

Ι

Twas coat, vest and pantaloons the lady she put on And away she went hunting with her dog and her gun, She hunted all around where the farmer doth dwell Because in her heart she loved him so well.

H

She fired several shots, but nothing did she kill, At length the young farmer came into the field, Then as to discourse with him it was her intent With her dog and her gun to meet him she went.

III

"I'd have thought you'd have been at the wedding last night To have presented to the squire his beautiful bride." "O no," said the farmer, The truth to you I'll tell, I would not give her away for I love her too well."

TV

This pleased the young lady, to hear him so bold, As she gave him her glove that was flowered with gold: Saying "Take this, I found it as I came along As I was a-hunting with my dog and my gun."

V

This lady went home with her heart full of love, She gave out the words that she had lost her glove; "The man that will find it and bring it to me, The man that will find it _ his bride I will be."

VI

No sooner then the farmer had heard of the words Than straight with the glove to the lady he goes, Saying "Here, honest lady, it's I have found your glove, Will you be so kind as to grant me your love?"

VII

"My love's already granted," the lady she replied;
"I love the sweet heart of the farmer," she cried;
"I'll be mistress of my dairy and the milker of my cow,
While the jolly brisk young farmer goes whistling to his plow."

VIII

"It's now I have got him I'll tell you of my fun,
How I hunted for the farmer with my dog and my gun;
It's now I have got him so closely in my snare
I'll enjoy him forever O I vow and declare."

The Little Mohee

(Harlan County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN



The Little Mohee

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The Little Mohee

Ī

As I went a-walking all by the seashore The wind it did whistle, the water did roar.

 Π

As I sat a-musing, myself on the grass, Oh, who did I spy but a young Indian lass.

TIT

She came and sat by me, took hold of my hand And said "You're a stranger and in a strange land"

IV

"But if you will follow you're welcome to come And dwell in the cottage where I call it my home."

V

The sun was fast sinking far over the sea, As I wandered along with my little Mohee.

V

Together we wandered, together we roam, 'Til I came to the little cottage where she called it her home.

VTI

She asked me to marry and offered her hand Saying "My father's the chieftain all over this land"

VIII

"My father's a chieftain and ruler can be,
I'm his only daughter, my name is Mohee."

TX

"O no, my dear maiden, that never can be, I have a dear sweetheart in my own countree"

X

"I will not forsake her, I know she loves me, Her heart is as true as any Mohee!"

XI

"It was early one morning, Monday morning in May, I broke her poor heart by the words I did say."

XII

"I'm going to leave you, so fare you well, my dear,
My ship's spreads (sails) are now spreading, over home I must steer."

XIII

The last time I saw her she knelt on the stand (strand)
Just as my boat passed her she waved me her hand

XIV

Saying "When you get over with the girl that you love O remember the Mohee, in the cocoanut grove."

XV

And when I had landed with the girl that I love, Both friends and relations gathered round me once more.

XVI

I gazed all about me, not one did I see That really did compare with my little Mohee.

XVII

And the girl I had trusted had proved untrue to me, So I says "I'll turn my courses back over the sea"

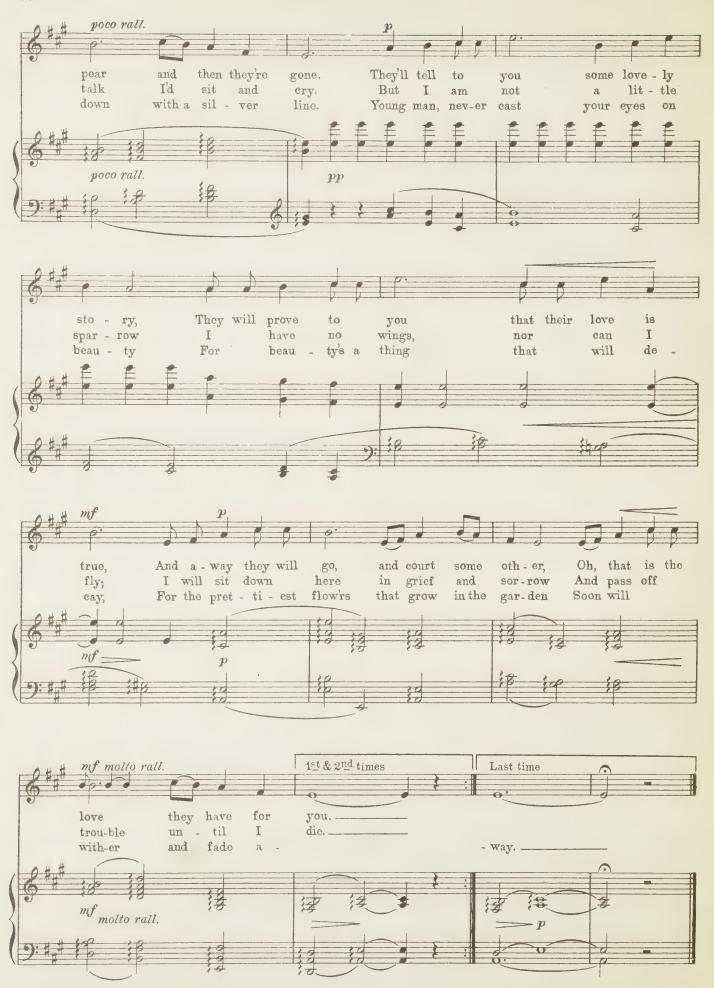
XVIII

"I'll turn my courses and backward I'll flee,
I'll go and spend my days with the little Mohee."

Little Sparrow

(Knott County, Kentucky)





Little Sparrow

Little Sparrow

Ι

Come all you fair and tender ladies
Take warning how you court young men,
They are like a star in the cloudy morning
They will first appear and then they're gone.
They will tell to you some lovely story
They will prove to you that their love is true,
And away they will go and court some other
Oh, that is the love they have for you.

II

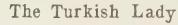
I wish I were some little sparrow
And I had wings and I could fly,
I would fly away to my false lover
And while he'd talk I would sit and cry.
But I am not a little sparrow
I have no wings, nor can I fly;
I will sit down here in grief and sorrow
And pass off trouble until I die.

III

I wish I had known before I courted
That love had been such a killing crime,
I would have locked my heart with a key of gold
And tied it down with a silver line.
Young man, never cast your eyes on beauty,
For beauty is a thing that will decay,
For the prettiest flowers that grow in the garden
Soon will wither and fade away.

Lord Batesman

or



The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

(Letcher County, Kentucky)









Lord Batesman

Copyright, 1916, by The H.W. Gray Co.



Lord Batesman



Lord Batesman

or

The Turkish Lady

Ι

There was a man who lived in England, He was of some high degree; He became uneasily discontented, Some foreign land, some lands to see.

II

He sailed east and he sailed west, He sailed all over the Turkish shore, Tillhe was caught and put in prison Never to be released any more.

III

The Turk he had but the one lone daughter, The fairest my eyes did ever see, She stole the keys from her father's dwelling And declared Lord Batesman she'd set free.

·IV

She led him down to the lower cellar And drew him a drink of the strongest wine, Saying Every moment seems an hour O Lord Batesman if you were mine."

 ∇

"Let's make a vow, let's make a promise, Let's make a vow, let's make it stand: You vow you'll marry no other woman I'll vow I'll marry no other man!"

VI

They made a vow, they made a promise, They made a vow, they made it stand: He vowed he'd marry no other woman She vowed she'd marry no other man.

VII

Seven long years had rolled around

It seemed as though it were twenty-three,
And if he's gone some seven years longer

There is no other man can marry me,

VIII

Seven long years had rolled around
It seemed as though it were twenty-nine,
She bundled up her finest clothing
And declared Lord Batesman she'd go find.

IX

She went 'til she came to the gate, she tingled, How boldly then she rang the bell: "Who's there? Who's there?" cried the proud young porter, "O come unto me and quickly tell."

X

"O is this here Lord Batesman's castle
And is his lordship here within?"

"O yes, O yes," cried the proud young porter,
"He's just now taking his young bride in!"

XI

"Go remember him of a piece of bread, Go remember him of a glass of wine, Go remember him of the Turkish lady Who freed him from the cold iron bond."

XII

O away and away went this proud porter,
O away and away and away went he
Until he came to Lord Batesman's chamber
When he went down on his bended knee,

XIII

"What news? What news?" my proud young porter,
"What news? What news? Come tell to me?"
"There is a lady at your gate, sir,
Fairer than your new bride ever can be?"

XIV

"She has got rings on every finger
And on one finger she has three,
With as much gay gold about her middle
As would buy half Northumberlee."

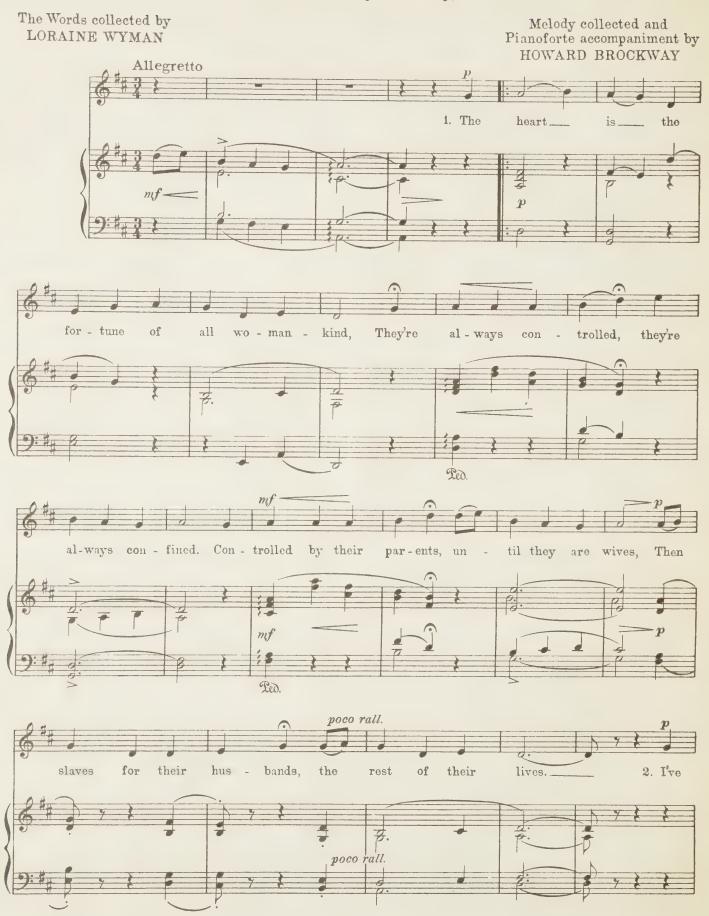
TY

"O she bids you remember a piece of bread,
O she bids you remember a glass of wine,
O she bids you remember the fair young maid
Who set you free from close confine?"

XVI

He stamped his foot upon the floor And burst the table in pieces three: Says "I forsake both lands and dwellings For the fair ladye who set me free."

Loving Nancy



Loving Nancy

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Loving Nancy

Loving Nancy

Ι

The heart is the fortune of all womankind,
They are always controlled, they are always confined;
Controlled by their parents until they are wives,
Then slaves for their husbands the rest of their lives.

 Π

I've always been a poor girl, my fortune's been bad,
I've often been courted by the wagoner's lad;
He courted me daily by night and by day,
And then for to leave me and going away.

III

"Your parents don't like me because I am poor,
They say I'm not worthy of entering their door;
I work for my living, my money's my own,
And if they don't like me they can leave me alone."

IV

The coocoo is a pretty bird, she sings as she flies,
She gives us good tidings and tells us no lies;
She feeds on sweet flowers to make her voice clear
And never hollas "coocoo" 'til the spring of the year.

V

"Go put up your horses and feed them some hay,
Come and sit you down by me, while you have to stay;"
"My horses are not hungry, they won't eat your hay,
So farewell, Loving Nancy, I'll feed on the way."

VI

"Your wagon needs greasing, your bill is to pay,
Come sit you down by me, while you have to stay."

"My wagon is greasy, my whip's in my hand,
So farewell, Loving Nancy, I've no time for to stand."

The Old Maid's Song

(Pulaski County, Kentucky)





The Old Maid's Song

The Old Maid's Song

I

I had a sister Sally that was younger than I am She had so many sweethearts she had to deny them, But as for my own part I never had many If you all knew my heart I'd be thankful for any.

REFRAIN

Come a landsman, a pinsman, a tinker or a tailor,

A fiddler or a dancer, a ploughboy or a sailor,

A gentleman or a poor man, a fool or a witty,

Don't you let me die an old maid, but take me out of pity.

II

I had a sister Susan that was ugly and ill-shapen, Before she was sixteen years old she was taken; Before she was eighteen a son and a daughter, Here I'm six and forty and never had an offer.

III

I never will be scolding and I never will be jealous,
My husband shall have money to go to the alchouse;
And while he's there spending I will be home saving,
And I leave it to the world if I'm not worth the having.

The Nightingale







The Nightingale

H.W.G. 1-103

The Nightingale

T

One morning, one morning, one morning in May I met a fair couple a-making their way,
And one was a lady so neat and so fair,
The other a soldier, a brave volunteer.

H

"Good morning, good morning, good morning to thee,
O where are you going my pretty lady?"

"O I am a-going to the banks of the sea,
To see the waters a-gliding, hear the nightingale sing."

Ш

We hadn't been a-standing but one hour or two
When from his knapsack a fiddle he drew,
The tune that he played made the valleys ring,
O see the waters a-gliding, hear the nightingale sing.

IV

"Pretty lady, pretty lady, it's time to give o'er,"

"O no, pretty soldier, please play one tune more,
I'd rather hear your fiddle or the touch of one string
As see the waters a-gliding, hear the nightingale sing."

V

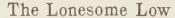
"Pretty soldier, pretty soldier, will you marry me?"O no, pretty lady, that never can be;
I have a wife in London and children twice three:
Two wives in the army's too many for me!

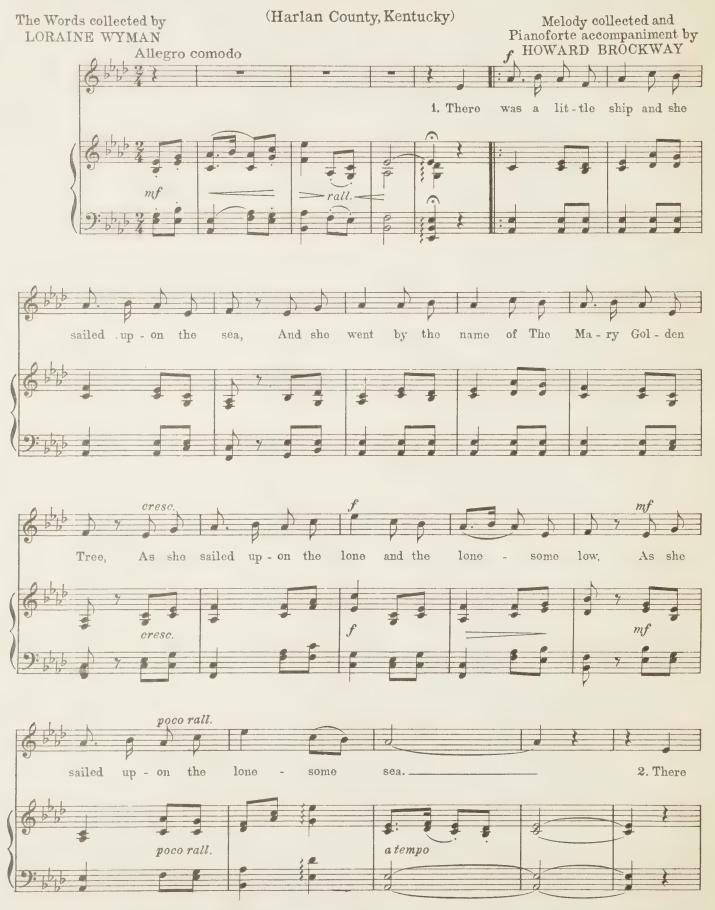
VI

"I'll go back to London and stay there one year
And often I'll think of you my little dear,
If ever I return, 'twill be in the spring
To see the waters a-gliding, hear the nightingale sing!"

The Mary Golden Tree

or







The Mary Golden Tree



The Mary Golden Tree

The Mary Golden Tree

or The Lonesome Low

I

There was a little ship and she sailed upon the sea, And she went by the name of The Mary Golden Tree; As she sailed upon the lone and the lonesome low, As she sailed upon the lonesome sea.

II

There was another ship and she sailed upon the sea, And she went by the name of The Turkish Robbery; As she sailed upon the lone and the lonesome low, As she sailed upon the lonesome sea.

III

There was a little sailor unto the captain said:
"O captain, O captain, what will you give to me
If I'll sink them in the lone and the lonesome low,
If I'll sink them on the lonesome sea?"

IV

"Two hundred dollars I'll give unto thee,
And my oldest daughter I'll wed unto thee;
If you'll sink them in the lone and the lonesome low,
If you'll sink them in the lonesome sea!"

V

He bowed upon his breast and away swam he 'Til he came to the ship of the Turkish Robbery As she sailed upon the lone and the lonesome low As she sailed upon the lonesome sea.

VI

Then out of his pocket an instrument he drew,
And he bored nine holes for to let the water through
As she sailed upon the lone and the lonesome low,
As she sailed upon the lonesome sea.

VII

Some had hats and some had caps,
And they tried to stop them awful water gaps,
For they were sinking in the lone and the lonesome low,
For they were sinking in the lonesome sea.

VIII

He bowed upon his breast and back swam he
'Til he came to the ship of The Mary Golden Tree,
As she sailed upon the lone and the lonesome low
As she sailed upon the lonesome sea.

IX

"O captain, O captain, won't you take me on board
O captain, O captain, won't you be good as your word,
For I've sunk them in the lone and the lonesome low
For I've sunk them in the lonesome sea?"

 \mathbf{X}

"O no! I will neither take you on board,
O no! I will neither be good as my word,
For I'm sailing on the lone and the lonesome low
For I'm sailing on the lonesome sea."

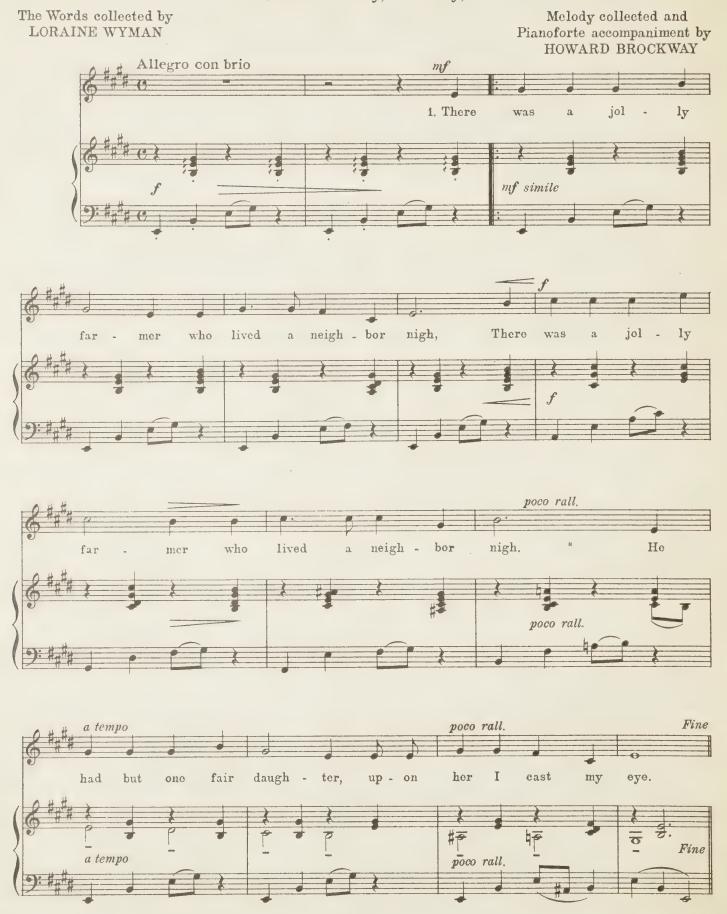
XI

"If it wasn't for my love for your daughter and your men I would do unto you as I did unto them,
I would sink you in the lone and the lonesome low
I would sink you in the lonesome sea."

XII

He turned upon his back and down sank he "Farewell, farewell, to The Mary Golden Tree For I'm sinking in the lone and the lonesome low, For I'm sinking in the lonesome sea."

Peggy Walker





Peggy Walker

Ι

There was a jolly farmer who lived a neighbor nigh, (bis) He had but one fair daughter, upon her I cast my eye.

 Π

I asked her if she'd be willing for me to cross the plain, (bis) And if she would be true to me till I return again.

 Π

She said she would be true to me until death did decline, (bis) Then I shook hands and parted with the girl I left behind.

IV

I set my boat for Iceland, strange people I might see, (bis)
I met Miss Peggy Walker, she fell in love with me.

V

I quit my work one evening, went walking up the street, (bis) The stage was just returning and a post-boy I did meet.

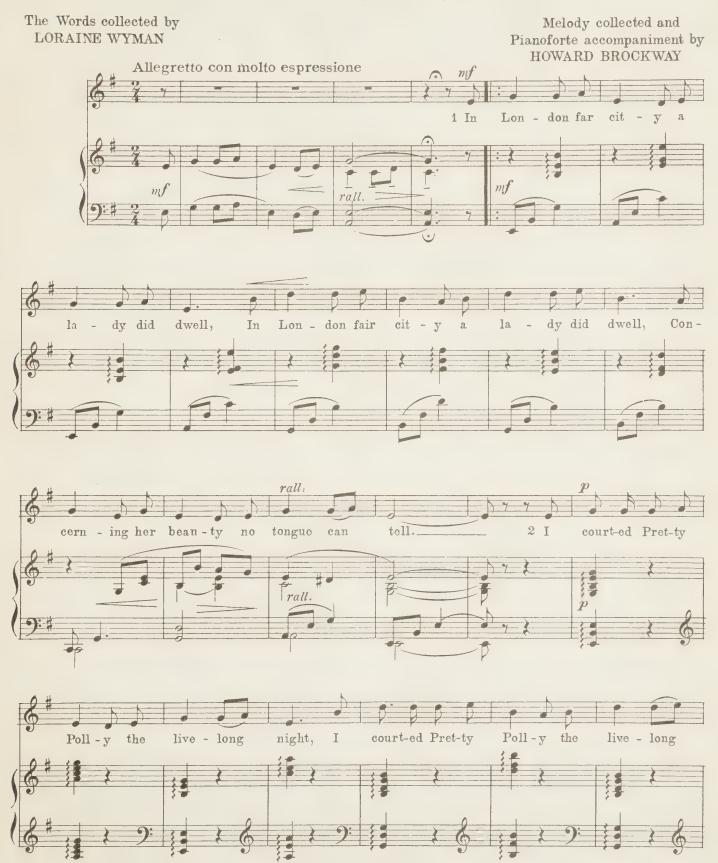
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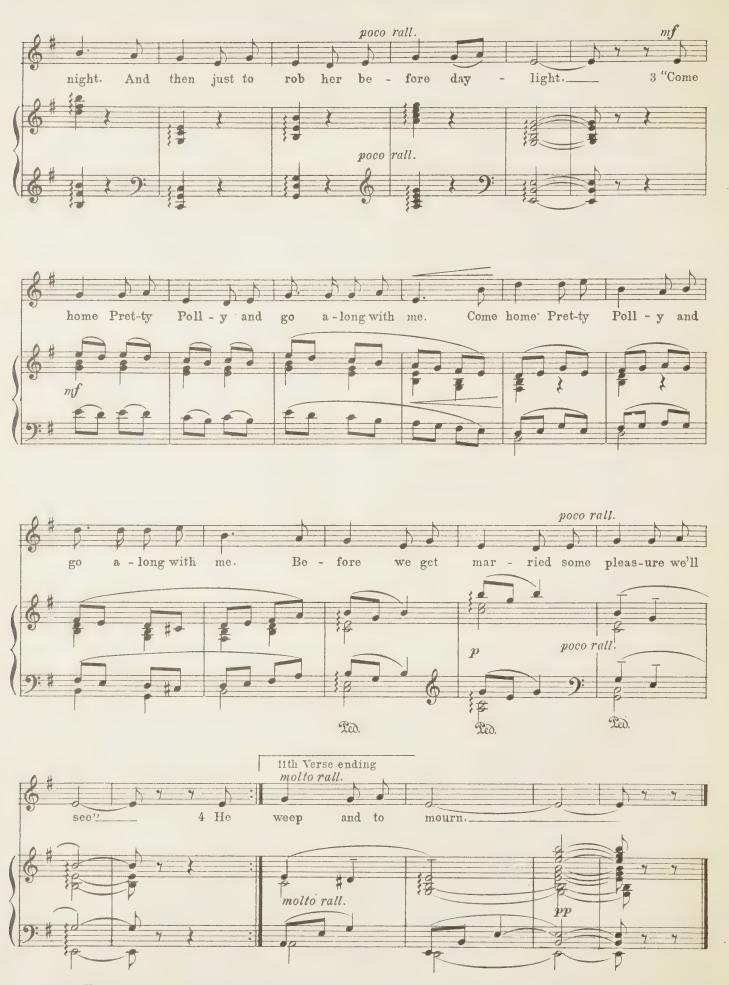
He handed me a letter that I might understand, (bis)
The girl I left behind me had gone with another man.

VII

Whilst I stood there lamenting, said he "Poor boy, don't cry, (bis) For I have money a-plenty, to serve both you and I."

Pretty Polly





Pretty Polly

T

In London far city a lady did dwell, Concerning her beauty no tongue can tell.

TI

I courted pretty Polly, the livelong night, And then just to rob her before daylight.

III

"Come home, pretty Polly, and go along with me, Before we get married some pleasure we'll see."

TV

He led her over hills and through valleys so deep, At last pretty Polly began for to weep.

V

"Willy, O Willy, I'm afraid of your ways, I'm afeared you're leading my body astray."

VI

She trusted him a piece further and what did she spy, But a new dug grave, two spades a-lying by.

VII

"Polly, pretty Polly, you're guessing just right, I've finished your grave I was digging last night."

VIII

She threw her arms around him and trembled with fear, "How can you kill a poor girl that loves you so dear?"

IX

"No time for to talk, no time for to stand,"
He came with his knife all in his right hand.

X

He stabbed her to the heart and the heart blood did flow, Down in her grave pretty Polly must go.

XI

He threw the sod over her and turned to go home, And left little birds to weep and to mourn.

Six Kings Daughters

(Letcher County, Kentucky) (Estill County, Kentucky)

The Words collected by LORAINE WYMAN

Melody collectet and
Pianoforte accompaniment by
HOWARD BROCKWAY

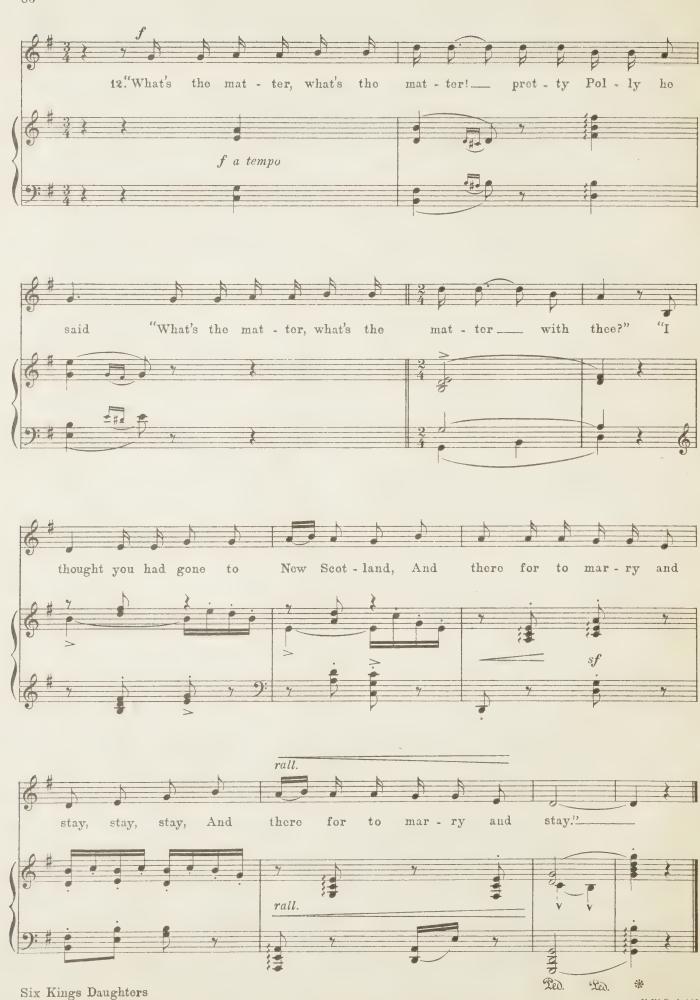






Six Kings Daughters





H-W.G. 1-103

Six Kings Daughters

Ŧ

"Get up, get up, pretty Polly," he says
"And go along with me,
I'll take you away to New Scotland
And there we'll marry and stay."

П

She stole fifty pounds of her father's gold And besides her mother's fee And two of the horses in the stall Where there were thirty and three,

Ш

She bound herself on the bonny, bonny black And him on the tabbit bay, They rode 'til they came to the high sea-side One hour before it was day.

IV

"Light down, light down, pretty Polly," he says,
"Light down, light down with me,"
This is the place I've drowned six
And you the seventh shall be."

V

"Pull off, pull off, that costly gown
And lay it by yonders tree
It never shall be said such costly wear
Shall rot in the salt water sea."

VI

"O turn yourself all around and about
Your face toward the sea,
It never shall be said such a rascal as you
A naked lady for to see."

VII

He turned himself all around and about And his face toward the sea And with her little white tender arms She shoved him into the sea.

VIII

"Lie there, lie there, you false-hearted man Lie there instead of me, If this be the place you drowned six The seventh you shall be."

IX

She bound herself on the bonny, bonny black And she led the tabbit bay, She rode 'til she came to her father's house One hour before it was day.

 \mathbf{X}

* Up speaks, up speaks that pretty parrot bird
In her cage where she be,
"What's the matter, what's the matter with my pretty Polly
She's up so long before day."

IX

"Hush up, hush up, pretty parrot bird,
Tell none of your tales on me;
Your cage shall be made of the yellow beaten gold.
And your doors of ivory."

XII

"What's the matter what's the matter pretty Polly" he said "What's the matter what's the matter with thee?"
"I thought you had gone to New Scotland And there for to marry and stay."

^{*}Verses X and XI may be omitted to shorten ballad in singing Six Kings Daughters

The Sweetheart in the Army



The Sweetheart in the Army C

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The Sweetheart in the Army

The Sweetheart in the Army

Ι

A neat fair lady walking in the garden, A well-dressed soldier came riding by, O he rode up so kindly spoken And asked "Little Miss won't you fancy I?"

 Π

"Go away, go away, you braved soldier,
You're not the man I've taken you to be,
You're not the man of any honor
Or you never would have forced yourself on me."

III

"I have a sweetheart all in the army,
He has been gone for seven long years;
And if he is gone some seven years longer,
Not a man on earth can marry me."

IV

"Perhaps he is dead, perhaps he is drownded, Perhaps he is on some battlefield slain, Perhaps he has courted some girl and married, Perhaps his love some maid did gain."

v

"If he is dead I hope he is happy,
Or if he is on some battlefield slain
Or if he has courted some girl and married
I love that girl for loving him."

VI

He drew his hands all from his pocket, They looked so long, so neat and small; Three golden rings all on his fingers, Down at her feet he lot them fall.

VII

She picked them up all on her little fingers, The kisses she gave was one, two and three; "And is this my little single soldier Returning home for to marry me?"

VIII

He picked her up all in his arms,
The kisses he gave was one, two and three,
Says "This is your little single soldier
Returning home for to marry thee!"

Sourwood Mountain





Sourwood Mountain

Ţ

Chicken crowing on Sourwood Mountain, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay Get your dogs and we'll go a-hunting, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay.

H

My true love she lives in Letcher, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay She won't come and I won't fetch her, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay.

Ш

My true love's a blue-eyed daisy, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay If I don't get her I'll go crazy, Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay.

IV

Big dog bark and little one bite you,
Hey he diddle dum dee-ay
Big girl'll court and little one 'll slight you,
Hey he diddle dum dee-ay.

V

My true love lives up the river,
Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay
A few more jumps and I'll be with her,
Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay.

VI

My true love lives in the hollow,
Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay
She won't come and I won't follow,
Hey ho diddle dum dee-ay.

Sweet William and Lady Margery











Sweet William and Lady Margery

T

Sweet William rose one early morning And dressed himself in blue, (bis) "Pray tell to me, your long-wedded love, Whose betwix Lady Margery and you?"

"I know no harm by you, Lady Margery,
Nor you know none by me; (bis)
Before to-morrow eight o'clock
A rich wedding you shall see?

III

Lady Margery sat at the high window A-combing back her hair, (bis)
She saw sweet William and his bride
As they came riding there.

IV

O she threw down her ivory comb And then threw back her hair (bis) And then sank down from her high window And was never seen back there.

V

When day was gone, and night was come, And all men fast asleep, (bis) Lady Margery rose with tears in her eyes And stood at sweet William's bed-feet.

V

Says "How do you like your new feather bed, How do you like your sheet, (bis) How do you like your new wedded love Who's in your arms asleep?"

VII

"Very well I like my new feather bed, Very well I like my sheet, (bis) But the best thing that I always loved Is the girl at my bed-feet,"

VШ

Sweet William called his merry men all By one, by two, by three, (bis) Says "I'll away to Fair Margery's bower With the leave of my ladye;"

IX

And when he came to Fair Margery's bower He knocked at the ring; (bis) And who so ready as her seven brothers To rise and let him in.

Х

"Good morning, Good morning," he says to them all,
"What makes you look so sad?" (bis)
"We're grieving over the loss of our sister, Lady Margery,
Who died for the love of you,"

XI

"Where's Lady Margery, how does she do, O is she in her hall, (bis) Or is she in chamber bright Among them ladies all?"

XII

"She's not in her chamber bright,
Nor she's not in her hall, (bis)
She is lying in her red-lined coffin
With her pale face turned to the wall."

ПІХ

"Unwind, unwind her pale cold face, Her cheeks I'm a-bound to see, (bis) She is the girl I always loved Who stole my heart from me?"

XIV

Three times he kissed her lily white hand, Three times he kissed her breast, (bis) Seven times he kissed her cold pale face And then did go to rest.

William Hall

(Knott County, Kentucky)



William Hall



William Hall

I

As William crossed the briny ocean And landed safe on the other side, Says "If Mary's alive and I can find her I'll make her my lawful bride."

 Π

As I went walking up Cold Iron,
There my mind was on my girl;
Cool drops of rain fell as it happened
My true love I there did meet.

III

"Good morning to thee pretty fair one
And how would you like to fancy me?"
"O my fancy's placed on a brisk young farmer
Who has lately crossed the sea."

IV

"Come describe your sweetheart unto me,
Describe your lover unto me;
Perhaps I've seen some sword pass thro' him
On the ground your love did fall."

V

"He was both tall, both neat and handsome
And he had pretty blue eyes withall,
O he had black hair and he wore it curly
And his name was William Hall."

VI

"I saw a French cannon ball shot thro' him,
Upon the ground your love did fall;
O he had black hair and he wore it curly
And his name was William Hall."

VII

She wrung her lily white hands saying "Lord have mercy, what shall I do!"
"O now to prove my story to you,
Here is the ring that I gave you?"







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L87

M Lonesome tunes 1629

Music





